Size Ranges in *Cypraea*

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In two recent papers the Schilders (1961, 1964) have tabulated size ranges observed in the species of *Cypraea* (s. l.). In the first of these (Schilder, 1961) the limits of length pertaining to 90% of the shells measured were given – the data concerning the smallest 5% and the largest 5% were excluded. Schilder remarked that the limits of size based on the 90% figure hardly change when the number of specimens examined becomes much increased and that the 5% minute and 5% giant shells are "unusual extremes in size"; for those cases where the number of available specimens was very small (e.g. *C. rosselli, C. marginata, C. martini, C. leucodon,* etc.) the ranges were given parenthetically, since for these the number of samples was too small to be significant statistically. In the second paper (Schilder & Schilder, 1964) the known extrema were tabulated.

Because a graphical representation of numerical tables is sometimes easier to comprehend, the data in these two papers have been used to prepare a figure which depicts the size ranges in species of *Cypraea.* In Figure 1 the size range for each species is plotted, in order of increasing average size. The averages were taken as the mean of the limits given by Schilder (1961). The ranges in that paper are shown as thick lines, and the extrema given in Schilder & Schilder (1964) are shown as thin lines. The species included[2] are those listed in Schilder (1961), with the following exceptions: *leviathan* is included in *carneola, reticulifera (occidentalis)* in *bicolor, declivis* in *angustata, comptonii* in *piperita,* and *raysummersi* in *hammondae;* furthermore *luchuana* and *katsuae,* both of which are not in Schilder (1961), are included. In the case of those species for which but a few specimens have been measured only a thin line is given in Figure 1. It is interesting to note that while the average size ranges from 6 mm to 107 mm the transition is a smooth one with no obvious gaps or discontinuities.

[1] Contribution No. 269.

LITERATURE CITED

Schilder, Franz Alfred

1961. Another statistical study in size of cowries. The Veliger 4 (2): 107 - 112 (1 October 1961)

Schilder, Maria, & Franz Alfred Schilder

1964. Maxima and minima in cowry shells. Hawaiian Shell News 12 (12): 6 - 8 (October 1964)

[2] It should be noted that twenty of the species listed by Schilder (1961) were considered subspecies by Schilder & Schilder (1964).